Statement-I

Details of compassionate appointment cases in respect of various departments of Ministry of Communications and Information Technology during each of the last three years

Name of the Department	Year	Total No. of Applications Received	Total No. of Persons Appointed	Total No. of Applications Rejected	Total No. of Applications Pending
Posts	2004	1226	156	1036	119
	2005	1097	246	847	169
	2006	1790	252	1191	410
Information	2004	1	NIL	NIL	1
Technology	2005	3	1	1	1
	2006	3	2	1	1
Telecom	2004	2			
	2005	3			
	2006	3	4*	2*	2*

*Includes total number of persons appointed, applications rejected and pending cases out of the total applications received during each of last three years.

Over-allotment of spectrum

1843. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GSM telecom companies are trying to get extra 2G spectrum free of charge;

(b) the basis of their demand;

(c) whether their association is using and 'oppressive and unfair' contract to penalize customers;

(d) whether it is also a fact that already extra and over-allotments of spectrum has been done;and

(e) the steps proposed to enhance competition for benefit of Indian public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD):

(a) to (d) No, Sir. The initial spectrum is allotted to the GSM operators in accordance with the relevant provisions of their respective Service Licence Agreements subject to availability of spectrum.

Further, to meet the growth of mobile telecom services, additional spectrum is allotted as per the criteria which prescribe "Active Subscribers" and "Peak traffic" averaged over a month in the Visitor Locator Register (VLR) and Network Management System (NMS) respectively. This allotment of additional spectrum ensures optimal and efficient use of allotted spectrum.

(e) TRAI has indicated in its recommendations dated 13th May, 2005 on spectrum related issues that from the analysis of level of competition it is evident that with 4 to 7 mobile operators in different service areas, there is adequate competition in almost all the service areas.

Low market share of BSNL/MTNL phone services

1844. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the market share of BSNL/MTNL in mobile phone services comparing private services;

(b) the reasons for its low share despite its infrastructure, technical back up etc;

(c) in terms of service and facilities, how private services stand head and shoulder above BSNL/MTNL; and

(d) the major measures to improve the performance, facilities, services, etc. to equate with the best private services and the time-frame before which it could be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As on 31.07.2007, the market share of BSNL and MTNL in Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) compared to other private operators is 20.44% and 16.4% respectively in their area of operation.

(b) In all, there are 9 private GSM. mobile telephone operators providing mobile telephone services besides BSNL and MTNL. Out of these, there are four major operators *viz.* BSNL, Bharti, Vodaphone, Essar and Idea. The lower market of BSNL share in mobile has happened mainly due to capacity constraints of mobile equipment in BSNL. The present average utilization of mobile capacity of BSNL is 100%. The mobile tender of BSNL has been finalized and Advanced Purchase Order is issued to the successful bidder which is yet to be accepted by vendor. MTNL has been facing a very tough competition in Delhi and Mumbai from private telcos like Tata, Reliance, Bharti etc. Nevertheless, MTNL is giving a tough fight to the competition by taking lot of measures to improve performance, facilities and services, expand the capacity etc.

(c) GSM based cellular mobile service being provided by BSNL and MTNL are at par with other private operators. The said service of BSNL and MTNL is working satisfactorily and is, in general, meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The cellular mobile network of BSNL/MTNL is continuously optimized to ensure better performance.

(d) The major measures taken by BSNL and MTNL to improve the performance, facilities, services, etc. to equate with other private operators during this financial year are given in Statment-I and II respectively.

Statement-I

Major measures taken by BSNL

- Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based Cellular Mobile Telephone Service being provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam